**Lake Champlain Basin Program**
**Technical Advisory Committee meeting**
**Held remotely due to COVID-19**
**Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 8:45 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Approved TAC Meeting Summary**

Attendance: Bill Ardren, Kevin Behm, Jennifer Callahan, Ryan Davies, Bryan Dore, Lauren Townley, Curt Gervich, James Jutras, Neil Kamman, Steve Kramer, Mark Malchoff, Margaret Murphy, Bridget O'Brien, Mario Paula, Leigh Walrath, Ryan Patch, Oliver Pierson, Eric Perkins

LCBP Staff: Mae Kate Campbell, Lauren Jenness, Meg Modley, Matthew Vaughan, Sarah Coleman

**Updates, announcements, public comments, Review and approve summary of previous TAC meeting**

Updates/Announcements

- Kevin: This will be my last TAC meeting; I'm retiring from the regional planning commission (RPC) that I've been working with for 25 years. It's been very enjoyable working with everyone and great to be involved with science.
  - Neil: Congratulations! Do you know who may be coming up behind you in the RPC?
  - Kevin: We sent a letter to someone to offer the new position with the RPC. We think he's going to be fantastic.
  - Matt: Thanks Kevin for your service and input. It's been great working with you.
- Curt: Congrats Kevin! Quick plug for the International Joint Commissions (IJC)'s Lake Champlain – Richelieu River (LCRR) Flood Study Technical Webinars on the outcomes of that Study so far that are occurring weekly. The series started in early November and is continuing through January. Webinars cover natural and physical elements of the Study. Webinars are also recorded and posted to the LCRR website.
- Neil: The Clean Water Board is meeting today to adopt the FY22 budget.
- Oliver: The 3-acre general permit went live yesterday. This was a huge lift by the Watershed Management Division. We don't anticipate a huge rush of new permits, but implementation is beginning.
- Matt: We have been thinking about the Long-Term Monitoring Program (LTMP) equipment upgrade. The upgrade was going to be 1 buoy and 1 shoreline-based tributary monitoring station, but now we are thinking about 2 buoys: one in the lake and one in a tributary. We did some field reconnaissance, got good information, and have been talking to sales representatives. Thanks to the sub-committee for feedback, we'll be following up. We are excited about putting a buoy in the river! The LCBP Steering Committee will meet on December 15th, TAC members are welcome.
- Mae Kate: As part of LCBP's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiative, staff will be participating in a workshop with a DEI consultant this Friday.
- Matt: The New York Lake Champlain Dam task force is continuing to meet and has been active in a few areas. They are looking at lower Saranac restoration. The dam upstream of Imperial Mills dam is the Indian Rapids dam, which has good potential for removal. The next meeting is in January, please let us know if you are interested in joining.
- Matt: Erin Vennie-Vollrath has joined as the new New York Lake Champlain Coordinator.

- - ○ Meg: Many of you may know Erin, she was the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator for the Adirondack Park Agency. She has a strong science background. She lives in the Adirondacks and has a farm. She is filling Fred's old position.
  - Meg: The boat launch steward post-season data crunch is almost finalized. We'll be excited to update the TAC at the next meeting. I am pleased to announce that the EPA regions 1, 2, and 5 working group report on VIDA was delivered to Congress in October, hopefully in the future I can share the priorities of that group effort and make a clearer identification of how we can create a Lake Champlain AIS monitoring program. Rutland, VT has pulled out of the Section 542 project program, they got into some of the implementation pieces and sounds like they were able to work it out locally.
    - ○ Neil: My understanding from finance folks is that it was getting close to being more expensive to go through 542 rather than implementing locally. Those dollars are now available for other projects that TAC has approved.
    - ○ Meg: We don't have implementation project dollars yet, just the design. We need to look at the impact of these newly available dollars.

## Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

## Review and approve summary of previous TAC meeting

**Motion to approve the meeting summary:** Jenn Callahan
**Second:** Curt Gervich
**Discussion:** Eric Perkins made some minor comments to clarify statements he had made at the previous meeting. The edits were incorporated into the minutes by LCBP staff.
**Vote to approve the meeting summary**: All in favor.


**Executive session: Review and discuss recommendation for FY21 technical pre-proposals**

TAC members noted the identification numbers of projects for which they had real or perceived conflicts of interest. Each case was discussed and the committee was advised on how to proceed by LCBP staff based on the LCBP Conflict of Interest Guidelines.

Andrew Schroth did not review any projects due to a conflict of interest.
Lauren T.: #5
Bill: noted that a number of projects talk about partnering with Fish and Wildlife, but they did not have a role in drafting the proposals and will not be benefiting from any of the projects.
Margaret: Was requested to submit letters of support for a few projects, not a conflict by LCBP guidelines.
Neil: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has dedicated matching funds towards a project very similar to #1.
**Motion to enter executive session:** Jenn
**Second**: Kevin
**Vote**: All in favor.

*Exit Executive Session*

**Motion to approve the ranked list of pre-proposals to move forward to the full proposal stage:** Mark
**Second:** Kevin
**Discussion: Curt:** We will have some kind of conversation about the inclusion of underrepresented communities in further grant rounds
**Vote:** All in favor. No abstentions.

- Matt: Thanks to Kevin and Mark for your years of service, and congratulations on your retirements!
- Mark: Go forth, keep doing what you're doing.
- Neil: it's been a pleasure to work with you for many years.